



THE CHALLENGE AND BLESSING OF

Generosity

The Challenge of Sacrificial Giving

Living like Jesus is challenging. Whether in compassion, mercy, faithfulness or prayer, emulating Jesus is a tall order. Giving sacrificially is another aspect of living like Jesus.

Sacrificial giving is parting with what we'd rather keep. King David said, ***"I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."*** Similarly, C.S. Lewis stated, ***"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. ... If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them."***

Jesus personified sacrifice. We honor his sacrifice by giving sacrificially in his name. When we do so, we are filled with joy stemming from better alignment with

God's purpose for our lives or, in other words, from living like Jesus.

Stewardship Focus #1

Being the Church Our Community Needs: Outreach Events & Ministries

In 2023, we took a leap of faith and offered several new outreach ministries - MLK Day of Service, the Fall Fest, and Act 2. Each of these new ministries was very successful, introducing TMPC to hundreds of new people. Much of the money for these ministries came from special funds and were not budgeted from our annual operating funds. It is challenging to try new things, but the blessings of these ministries have given us new opportunities to serve, connect and grow.

This year we need to include these ministries in our annual budget so we further develop them and be the church our community needs.

2023 Stewardship Campaign Goals

- Embrace giving as a spiritual discipline
- Generate 122 pledges, including 90 adult pledges and 32 student and child pledges
- Increase overall dollars pledged by 12.2%
- Fund a total revenue budget of \$862,500



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**Stewardship Focus #2
Being the Church Our
Community Needs: Technology**

Over the past three years, our technology costs have skyrocketed. The monthly fees we pay for streaming, hosting, subscriptions, increased bandwidth, computers and more have continued to add up. As we add new folks to our database and try to reach people digitally, we are finding that our current platform can't sustain our growth.

Effectively harnessing technology is a challenge, but also a huge blessing! When you are ill or traveling and you watch online, the blessings are there. When you share a worship service with

friends, the blessings are multiplying. When a visitor worships online first, before ever entering our campus, we can give them a window into our amazing community.

By giving generously to TMPC, you fund the technology we need to be the church our community needs.

**Stewardship Focus #3
Competitive Salaries**

This year the personnel committee spent time analyzing our salaries in comparison to other local churches and to nationwide averages. We found that some of our salaries are well below those of our church peers. We value our staff and we are so grateful for the time and energy they put into the ministry at our church. Our staff members love their work and care deeply about the mission of the church. By giving generously to TMPC, we can ensure our staff are paid fairly and feel valued in our community.

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Stewardship Focus #4

Supporting Our Programs and Mission

Increased participation this year has caused many of our programs to go over budget. A booming VBS, growing Kids Club and thriving adult Bible studies have all increased our expenses. Larger and more frequent programs also mean increased costs for utilities, maintenance and cleaning.

Likewise, our local and international missions have growing needs. As we increase our other expenses, we proportionately increase our mission giving, thus both serving those in need and reaping the blessings of living like Jesus.

Our blessings redouble both in nurturing the faith of those in our community and in serving the underserved beyond our walls. Your pledge to TMPC will allow us to keep up with our increasing costs at home, make room for even more people to learn what it means to live like Jesus, and expand the impact we have in our community and around the world.

Meeting The Challenge of Sacrificial Giving

As we strive to live like Jesus, we ask that you consider the enormous blessing Thompson has been for you, to dig deep, and to give sacrificially toward its future. If you think you can give at a particular level below, we challenge you to step out in faith and give at the next higher level. Our sacrificial giving will redouble our personal blessings and transform our community.

Above \$40,000

\$30,000 - \$40,000

\$25,000 - \$29,999

\$20,000 - \$24,999

\$15,000 - \$19,999

\$12,500 - \$14,999

\$10,000 - \$12,499

\$7,500 - \$9,999

\$6,000 - \$7,499

\$5,000 - \$5,999

\$4,000 - \$4,999

\$3,500 - \$3,999

\$3,000 - \$3,499

\$2,500 - \$2,999

\$2,000 - \$2,499

\$1,500 - \$1,999

\$1,200 - \$1,499

\$1,000 - \$1,199

\$800 - \$999

\$600 - \$799

\$400 - \$599

\$200 - \$399

\$1 - \$199



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**Living Like Jesus –
Envisioning Life at TMPC**

Acts Chapter 4 shows us a community of Christians who devoted themselves completely to living like Jesus and testifying to his love. They raised their voices together in prayer. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. They were one in heart and mind. They shared everything they had and God's grace was so powerfully at work in them that there were no needy among them.

Thompson can be such a place – a place of profound prayer and passionate faith; a place of deep love and mutual support; a place where the weak are made strong, the lonely find companionship, and the hungry are filled. The groundwork for this future has been laid, the foundation is in place. As we live into our quest to live like Jesus – in prayer, in Bible study, in service, in compassion, and in sacrificial giving – we will experience the indescribable joy of walking with God and with each other as God always intended.

**Living Like Jesus –
Transforming Our Community**

Our world, including our own local community, desperately needs to experience the unconditional love of God. We are surrounded by children of God who feel isolated, rejected, judged and utterly alone. Depression and anxiety, anger and hopelessness fill our schools, our neighborhoods and our workplaces.

This is not God's design for his people. Jesus said that his disciples **are** the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He instructed us to let our "light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

We, God's disciples at Thompson, through embracing our calling to live like Jesus, can be salt and light to our community. We can welcome outcasts into our midst. We can go to them – to their neighborhoods, coffee houses, bars and workplaces – to show them that they are not alone, that they are not forgotten, and that they are loved by God and by us. In so doing, we will change lives, glorify God, and transform our community.

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